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ACCOUNTABILITY UNITY TRANSPARENCY EQUALITY

The People's Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga's Determination pays off and Bank of Hawaii Agrees to Stay for Another 12 Months...

The Governor's Office has confirmed that Bank of Hawaii has agreed to delay its closing date in American Samoa for 12 months.

March 15 as planned. The governor's meeting with Mr. Ho was also attended by Congressman Faleomavaega, who was in Honolulu

U.S. bank will take its place."

Governor Lolo expressed his gratitude to Faleomavaega for lending his solid support in advancing the governor's efforts to compel the Bank of Hawaii to please provide sufficient time to accommodate local efforts connected with finding a U.S. replacement Bank.

Mr. Ho said during today's Federal Reserve meeting that Governor Lolo has given him great perspective not just from the operational standpoint but also from community spirit standpoint on what's important when BOH leaves and how the bank "can more effectively exit out of American Samoa." He said following his meeting with Lolo earlier this morning, he believes Governor Lolo and Mr. Ho will have a "solution in place that would accommodate all parties involved." The BOH leader also added that there is no greater example of leadership than what Governor Lolo has shown throughout their discussions and meetings.



(Far Left) Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga

Earlier this month, BOH announced that it will delay its departure date for 90 days, which would end June 14. But following a meeting between Governor Lolo Matalasi and BOH CEO and President Peter Ho this morning, the Governor's Office said BOH has now agreed to delay their closing date by 12 months—this means BOH will be here until March of next year.

Only the BOH branch in Utulei will open but the Tafuna branch will close

lu to testify at today's Federal Reserve public hearing relating to BOH's departure.

Both Lolo and Faleomavaega relayed their appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Ho's for the bank's sensitivity and compassion to the needs of the people of American Samoa. Mr. Ho's staff is drafting a memorandum of understanding to be reviewed by the Governor's Office "defining the parameters guiding Bank of Hawaii's transitioning out seamlessly from the local market with the hope that a

Calendar of Events:

Confirmation Hearing—Budget Off.	Mar 14
Retirement Checks	Mar 15
Military Pay Day	Mar 15
Confirmation Hearing Immigration Brd	Mar 19
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Confirmation Hearing Retirement Brd	Mar 26

What's New

Public Hearing
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Reclassifications
For Teachers
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Newly Appointed
Director
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Federal Reserve and Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE) hear Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga's Plea for Help...

"...a married woman who after 40 years of marriage decided in the middle of the night to leave her husband with little notice..." was how Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga described Bank of Hawaii's (BOH) departure from American Samoa during the Hawaii-based Faith Action for Community Equity (FACE) gathering last weekend. FACE is behind an online petition to keep BOH in the territory and close to 800 residents of American Samoa and Hawaii have signed their petition.

The group turned out big numbers today at a Federal Reserve Community Hearing held in Honolulu echoing Governor Moliga's plea that BOH continue their operations in American Samoa until another bank takes its place.

Several members of the community presented their concerns, which included residents here in American Samoa—Lina Seumanutafa and James Maguire. Both expressed great concern about the well-being of the people and the damage Bank of Hawaii's exit would cause on the residents economic stability. "It feels like abandonment..." says Mrs. Seumanutafa.

Governor Lolo and Congressman Faleomavaega continue to seek assistance from various financial institutions so that the people of American Samoa may be able to get the services they received from Bank of Hawaii.



MAOFA LE TA'ITA'I O LE FALETUPE I LE FA'ATAUANAU A LE KOVANA SILI

O le fa'amatalaga mai a le Peresitene o le Bank o Hawaii, le susuga a Peter HO, o se ta'ita'i alofa tele i lona atunu'u le Afioga i le Kovana Sili, Lolo Moliga, ona ua ia le solomuli 'ese mai lava i le fa'afinaiu ma le fa'aali o lona finagalo i luma o a latou fonotaga ina ia tumau pea le faletupe a Hawaii se'ia maua se tasi e suitulaga ona se'e malie 'ese atu lea.

Momoli le fa'afetai tele a le Afioga i le Kovana Sili i le Sui o le Konekeresi, Faleomavaega Eni i lona lagolagosua i le fa'atauanau ma le fa'afinaiu, atoa ma le ioeina e le susuga ia Ho i lona talia aloa'ia o le fa'atalosaga atu.

GALULUE TU'UFA'ATASI - ONA O LE ALOFA I LE ATUNU'U

O le fa'atusa a le Afioga i le Kovana Sili, Lolo Matalasi MOLIGA, ua fa'apei le tu'ulafoa'ina o Amerika Samoa e le Faletupe o Hawaii o se tina ua sola 'ese mai i lona aiga ae itiiti se taimi na ia ta'uina atu ai o le ā faia lea tulaga. O le to'atele o tamā ma tinā atoa ma alo ma fanau i Hawaii, na o latou sainia ni pepa e fa'asaga i le faletupe i Hawaii ina ia fa'autagia le talosaga a le Kovana Sili Lolo, ma le faipule i Uosigitone o Faleomavaega Eni, ina ia tumau pea i Amerika Samoa le Bank o Hawaii, se'ia maua se tasi faletupe e sui tulaga i totolu o le atunu'u.

"...ia tumau pea i Amerika Samoa le bank o Hawaii..."

Fa'afetai i nei ta'ita'i ma'ele'elegā ma le alofa i le atunu'u ua toe tumau ai le Bank o Hawaii mo le 12 masina.

Na fa'atasi ai fo'i nisi sui mai i Amerika Samoa i lea fa'atalatalanoaga i Hawaii i luga o telefoni, le susuga ia James Mcquire ma le tama'ita'i ia Lina Seumanutafa. Fa'amalō le tauāta'i.

Correction of Department of Human Resources Summer Youth Employment Program Dates

ASG Weekly would like to correct the dates for the Manu'a Islands visit. The dates that were given in the previous issue were March 21st, 2013 through March 26th, 2013. Please note that these dates are actually set to April 21st, 2013 through April 26th, 2013. For more information on this article please feel free to re-read our previous issue that was released on March 8th, 2013. Fa'afetai Lava.

"FA'ASA'O TOTOGI O FAIA'OGA" – FINAGALO FA'AALIA O LE FA'ATONU

Ua galalue nei le Afioga i le Fa'atonu o le Ofisa o A'oga Vaitinasa Salu Hunkin-Finau ma le Fono Faitulafono ina ia fa'asa'osa'oina ia totogi o faia'oga, ina ia talafeagai ma tusi pasi (tikeri) ua latou maua.

Afai e fa'atusa totogi o lo'o maua nei e faiaoga Amerika Samoa ma totogi o faiaoga i le Unaite Setete, e matua'i telē lava le 'ese'esega. O le fa'ata'ita'iga na tu'uina e le fa'atonu Hunkin-Finau, o le faia'oga i Amerika Samoa e tutusa tikeri ma agava'a ma le faiaoga i Amerika, o le faia'oga i Amerika Samoa e \$16,000 i le tausaga, a'o le faia'oga i Amerika e \$30,000. Ua ioeina e le Fono lea 'ese'esega, 'ae o le fesili, afai e si'itia nei totogi, e tumau pea nei faia'oga i totonu o potu a'oga? O le tali mai a le fa'atonu, e le o iai i le taimi nei se porokalama fa'ata'atia mo lea tulaga, ae peita'i, e iai le maliliega ma faia'oga ina tumau pea i potu a'oga se'ia se taimi.

O lo'o fa'aauau pea nei feutaga'iga, toe maua atu se tasi ripoti i la tatou nusipepa o i luma.

Department of Education Considers Reclassification for Teachers

The Department of Education is proposing a reclassification of teacher salaries that will see a hike in pay of \$9,000 or more for teachers holding bachelor degrees.

At present, BA degree holders with Praxis certification are making at least \$16,000 a year, and according to DOE Director Vaitinasa Dr. Salu Hunkin Finau, the average starting salary of mainland teachers with the same four-year degree and certification is \$30,000 per year.

At a hearing before the House of Representatives yesterday, Vaitinasa said they are working on a reclassification proposal that will set the entry level salary for four-year degree teachers at \$25,000 a year. Under the proposal BA holders with Praxis certification would get a starting salary of \$30,000 per year.

Under questions from Vice Speaker Paulualo Talia Fa'afetai, Vaitinasa said the majority of DOE teachers graduated from US accredited universities and their degrees are comparable to teachers in Hawaii and the mainland, though teacher here face more challenges than their counterparts off island.

The vice speaker said he hopes DOE includes funding for the teacher reclassification in its upcoming budget. Representative Vui Florence Saulo asked if DOE has a policy in place to keep teachers who've received higher degrees under DOE programs in the classrooms, instead of them looking for jobs elsewhere.

Vaitinasa answered no such policy is in place but there should be some sort of agreement between teachers and DOE requiring teachers who have graduated from cohort programs to stay in the classroom for a period of time. She said this is one of the initiatives DOE is trying to finalize.



Tax Refunds are Here!

Our local people can now find a little piece of mind now that our local tax office is issuing this year's tax checks. Local representatives from the tax office were unavailable for comments as to when each individual will receive their checks but they assured that each local filer will receive their checks in order—from the date filed. On Friday the 8th of March, 982 checks were processed and ready for pick up from the local disbursing office within the Executive Office Building. It is still unclear if the tax office will be releasing more checks this Friday (March 15th). ASG Weekly will be sure to follow up with this story as it progresses.



Meet the American Samoa Government New Public Defender



The House of Representatives approved by a unanimous vote—the governor's nomination of Douglas Fiaui to serve as director for the Office of the Public Defender. The vote was 16-0.

Last week, Fiaui also received unanimous approval from the Senate. He is the second director to get

unanimous support from both chambers, the first being Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Tuia Poumele, director of Port Administration.

Just like in the Senate, House members praised Fiaui for his service to the people, serving previously as an assistant public defender before spending the past four years working as a legal counsel at the Governor's Ofice.

Vice Speaker I'aulualo Talia Fa'afetai said he did not question Fiaui's qualifications and believed he has the knowledge and skills to be the public defender. He said despite his youth, Fiaui, 35, can do the job.

Representative Timusa Tini Lam Yuen raised concerns with Fiaui not knowing the Samoan language, when the majority of his clients are Samoans. Fiaui explained that the Public Defender's Office has translators who are present at every meeting the attorneys have with clients. He said the translators are there to make sure every aspect of the client's case is explained fully in the Samoan language and they understand their rights.



Meet the Newly Confirmed Director for the Department of Homeland Security

It is official, Utuali'i Iuniasolua Savusa is the director of the Department of Homeland Security. He was confirmed today by the Senate today by a unanimous vote of 15-0.

Utuali'i has received the endorsement of the House of Representatives in January with a 15-2 vote. The Senate approval today came after a confirmation hearing before the Senate Public Safety/Homeland Security Committee, chaired by Faletagoal Tuolemotu. The Senate gallery was packed with family members and employees of Homeland Security who were there to support the new director. Senators lauded Utuali'i for his many years of service in the military and thanked Governor Lolo for appointing a son of American Samoa to head this important department.

Senate President Gaoteote Palaie said the nominee has the skills and experience to lead his department and advised Utuali'i to be steadfast and not to be afraid to make decisions that will benefit the department and the public.

One of the issues raised by chairman Faletagoai is the different information disseminated by local radio stations during natural disasters. He said this can lead to residents going out to make necessary preparations while others don't depending on the radio station they listen to.

The chairman said the emergency operations center which is under homeland security has a duty to make sure accurate information is being relayed to the media so it doesn't cause public confusion.

Utuali'i said if a radio station broadcasts a different weather report compared to what was sent out by homeland security, then their office contacts the radio station to make sure they release the correct information.

Fa'aali le loto fa'afetai a le ofisa o le TAOA

Fa'aali le loto fa'afetai a le aufaigaluega o le Ofisa a Tagata Matutua ma le Fa'atonu Fa'aolioli le Tofa ia Tifi Ale ona o le fa'aavanoaina o Maota o nai Aiga e fa'asino i le Afioga i le Tei ia Vele Kuka o Pava'ia'i ma Afioga i le Faletua ia Fa'afetai Leiato o Fagaitua—aua le tu-

faina o Pepa ai o tina ma tama matutua o le atunu'u.

Saunoa le Afioga ia Vele "...o le agaga lava, ina ia fesoasoani i nai tina ma tama matutua, ma o se va'aiga fiafia iate ona ua avea lea polokalama ma auala e mafai ai ona tautua pea mo le mamalu o le atunu'u..."